THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) Strictly in accordance with the spirit of the Indian constitution, the National Curriculum Framework for School Education-2000 (NCFSE-2000), does not recommend any religious education, but education about religions. The Constitution does not say anything against teaching about the basic principles of major world religions. In fact, all the major Commissions on education have recommended teaching about the basic principles of all religions.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The NCFSE-2000 envisages teaching about the basic principles of major world religions with the help of carefully developed reading materials transacted by unbiased and objective teachers properly oriented through authentic orientation materials related to different religions and religion related values. These teachers will be the regular teachers in the school system.

Uniform syllabus for universities

353. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether University Grants Commission issued a direction recently, for revamping syllabi of universities for uniform syllabus for universities;

(b) whether a model frame-work has also been communicated to universities;

(c) if so, the details of the expert body and of experts who formulated above model frame-work;

(d) whether the model frame-work has been discussed with any Central and State Universities, before communicating;

(e) whether States, different religious groups and minorities used to initiate educational institutions according to requirements;

(f) if so, whether uniform syllabi is an infringement in freedom of pluralistic society and federal structure; and

(g) whether competent authority would consider to withdraw above direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (g) According to the information furnished by the University Grants Commission, the UGC had constituted Curriculum Development Committees (CDCs) to frame the Model Curricula at under-graduate and post-graduate level in various disciplines of 32 subjects of Science, Humanities and Social Sciences. These Committees consisted of various subject experts, academicians and university teachers, etc. This was done with a view to facilitate the universities to update their existing curricula by providing them inputs to take care of fast paced development in the knowledge of the subject concerned. The UGC has since forwarded the model curriculum to universities for their guidance. Universities have the option to adopt the model curricula either in *toto* or adopt it after making necessary amendments or adopt it after necessary deletion/ addition or adopt it after making any change whatsoever, which the university may consider necessary. It is thus clear that intention of UGC is not to enforce uniform curriculum throughout the universities. There is no question of infringement in the freedom of pluralistic society and federal structure.

Commissioner for NCW

354. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Commission for Women has demanded/ requested for appointment of Commissioner for the Commission;

(b) if so, whether any decision has been taken in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT [DR. (SHRIMATI) RITA VERMA]: (a) to (d) The National Perspective Plan for Women (NPP) formulated in 1988 for the period 1988—2000 had recommended the creation of a special division to be designated as 'Commissioner for Women's Rights' in the Department of Women and Child Development for enforcement of law for women. However, the National Commission for Women (NCW), was constituted